

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 18, 2002

**CONTACT:**

Dan Shepley, CHIP [317]630-0853

Angie Dye, DMD [317] 327-6709

City of  
**Indianapolis**  
Bart Peterson, Mayor



## ***Mayor Peterson participates in National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service***

**INDIANAPOLIS** –Mayor Bart Peterson will join Governor Frank O'Bannon to honor the city's fallen homeless citizens in a local observance of the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service.

Sponsored by the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), the memorial service annually pays respect to homeless people who passed away during the year. In 2002, approximately 25 people died while homeless in Indianapolis.

**WHEN:**           **Friday, December 20**  
                            1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**           Christ Church Cathedral  
                            125 Monument Circle

Each year the event is observed on or near the first day of winter to bring attention to the plight of homeless persons and to remember those people who have been homeless and died during the past year. A memorial wall, inscribed with the names of those who have died, will be on display.

"It is unfortunate but necessary that we hold this memorial service," said Mayor Peterson. "Unfortunate in that each year we have to pay tribute to so many of our homeless citizens whose deaths are related to their lack of housing. Necessary to spur us as a community to do more to prevent such needless tragedies from recurring."

The memorial service is also held to raise awareness about the persistent and growing problem of homelessness in our city. During the course of a year in Indianapolis, approximately 15,000 people will experience homelessness.

The National Homeless Persons' Service is organized locally by the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP). For more information about the memorial service or local homeless issues, please call 630-0853.

-30-

Department of Metropolitan Development  
Public Information Office

2001 City County Building  
200 East Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[317] 327 6709

[fax] 327 5858

[TDD] 327 5186

indygov.org